

REGISTRY OF DEEDS (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 10 May 1877 :—for,

RETURNS " of the Number of all UNCOMPARED DOCUMENTS in the REGISTRY of DEEDS OFFICE (IRELAND), from Establishment of the Office to present Date, under the Heads of—

Transcripts of Memorials;

Abstracts of Memorials, Original and Duplicate;

Lands Index Volume, Original and Duplicate;

Names Index, Original and Duplicate;

Negative Search Record Book, Original and Duplicate :"

" Of the Date of Establishing ' ERROR BOOK,' and Number of Errors discovered in duly Compared and Certified Documents, and which Errors are recorded in such Error Books :"

" Of the Number of Persons engaged, Length of Time occupied, and Cost in Money of Compiling DICTIONARY INDEX from Daily or Sectional Index in Years following: 1840 to 1849; 1850 to 1859; 1860 to 1869 :"

" Of the Average Gain of Time in making SEARCHES ON DICTIONARY INDEX over DAILY INDEX :"

" Of the Date at which the DAILY INDEX for 1871 was put in Dictionary Order on Parchment :"

" Of the Dates up to which the NAMES INDEX and LANDS INDEX were compared on the 1st day of January 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877, respectively; also from the 1st day of January to the 28th day of February 1877 (inclusive) :"

" And, of the Dates up to which the ABSTRACT BOOK was compared."

(*Mr. William Henry Smith.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
13 July 1877.

RETURN "of the Number of all UNCOMPARED DOCUMENTS in the Registry of DEEDS OFFICE (IRELAND), from Establishment of the Office to present Date, under the Heads of: Transcripts of Memorials; Abstracts of Memorials, Original and Duplicate; Lands Index Volume, Original and Duplicate; Names Index, Original and Duplicate; and, Negative Search Record Book, Original and Duplicate."

TRANSCRIPTS OF MEMORIALS.

FROM the commencement of the Registry (A.D. 1708) to the date of the above Order (10th May 1877), there have been One million, Fifteen thousand, Nine hundred and Eighty-three memorials registered. The transcripts of Four hundred and Twelve thousand, Nine hundred and Six of these memorials, or thereabouts, are uncomparred.*

Little practical inconvenience arises from the non-comparison of these documents, which are found by experience to be, on the whole, accurately transcribed, and free from material error. There is no direction in any of the statutes regulating the department that the transcripts of memorials should be compared. The original memorial itself is easily referred to in all cases where it is considered necessary or advisable to do so. Besides, the abstract books kept for the last 50 years, in conformity with the statutes made in that behalf, and carefully compared with the original memorials, contain the essential particulars of each memorial and its transcript in the tabular form following:—

FORM.

Year and Day of Registering, Volume of the Year, and Number of the Memorial.	Name of the Instrument.	Date of the Instrument.	Names of all the Grantees, and One or more of the Grantees.		Consideration, Rent, Ransom Fine, Term.	Name, Description, and Situation of the Premises.	General Nature of the Instrument, whether Trust, Marriage Settlement, Mortgage, or Absolute Conveyance.
			Grantee.	Grantee.			

These abstracts, being an absolutely reliable condensation of the memorials, are the sources of information primarily and mainly consulted by the public and the official searchers.

Attested copies of Memorials are never issued from the office without having been accurately compared with the original memorials.

ABSTRACTS OF MEMORIALS, Original and Duplicate.

THE Abstract Book was first instituted as an office book by the 9 Geo. 4, c. 57, s. 12 (15 July 1828), which Act was repealed by the 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 87, s. 1. The latter Act, sec. 12, re-enacted that an Abstract Book should be thenceforth kept in original and duplicate. All the Abstract Books (original) from 15th August 1828 to the present time have been compared. The duplicates are compared up to 1857, but have never been required for use. The duplicate Abstract Book has not been compiled since the latter year, as stated in Messrs. Law and Chisholm's Report, nor has any inconvenience whatsoever been occasioned thereby.

The Act 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 87, further directed that retrospective Abstract Books should be constructed for the period 1708 to 1828, "as and when the funds of the office would permit." In reference to this direction, the Report of Messrs. Law and Chisholm states that: "From 1708 to 1717 there are 22 volumes of Abstracts of Memorials not compared, and no duplicates. No Abstract Books exist from 1718 to 1799. From 1800 to 1828, there are 710 volumes not compared, and no duplicates."

The compilation of the first set of Abstracts above mentioned (1708-1717) did not take place for more than a century after the period to which they refer, nor was the second series (1800-1828) compiled until long after the time to which it refers. *These Abstracts, being uncomparred, are never used.*

* It cannot be stated with certainty whether the memorials were compared in earlier periods of the registry; but from the correct state in which the first 360 volumes of transcripts appear, it is presumed these were compared." (Parliamentary Paper 426 of 1857, and Messrs. Law and Chisholm's Report to the Treasury in 1860).

LANDS INDEX VOLUME, Original and Duplicate.

THE (original) Lands Index was compared on 10th May 1877 (date of the above Order), up to the 12th day of February 1877. This Index is now (11th day of July 1877) compared to 26th day of May 1877.

There are 89 volumes of the duplicate Lands Index uncomparred up to the end of 1869. They are in process of comparison.

The uncomparred books are never used.

NAMES INDEX, Original and Duplicate.

THERE are no uncomparred (original) Indexes of Names, the comparison of these volumes being completed to the latest moment. The duplicate sectional Index has been compared and checked up to part of the year 1858, as stated in Messrs. Law and Chisholm's Report, when, as these books were never used for searching purposes, their comparison was discontinued, and the clerical labour thus economised, was more usefully employed. There are 89 volumes of these duplicate sectional Indexes uncomparred. When the consolidated Indexes for any decennial period are completed, the sectional Indexes original as well as duplicate are no longer used.

No uncomparred Index, of any kind, is ever used.

A duplicate Index, on paper, in surname dictionary order, and compared to the latest period, has been carried on side by side with the current sectional Index of Names from 1870 to the present date, and is in official use.

NEGATIVE SEARCH RECORD BOOK, Original and Duplicate.

THE Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 120, does not authorise the keeping of a duplicate Negative Search Record Book. Such a book was kept for some time but abandoned in the year 1867, as being found wholly useless and unnecessary. The Negative Search Record Book is compared against every completed negative search before the same is delivered from the office, which is a comparison of this book to the current moment.

RETURN of the Date of establishing "ERROR BOOK," and Number of Errors discovered in duly compared and certified Documents, and which Errors are recorded in such Error Books.

THERE is no record of the establishment of this book, which is not directed to be kept by any statute regulating the Department. The first entry would appear to have been made in the year 1853. It is merely a private memorandum and query book, and ensures the due consideration of each entry appearing on it, as well as that none but necessary corrections shall be made, and by an experienced clerk, specially nominated for this duty. There would appear to be 5,200 errors, or thereabouts, discovered in duly compared and certified documents, and corrected from time to time. They extend over the entire period of the Registry from its commencement in 1708 to the present, almost 170 years. Many are of the most trivial nature, many simply clerical errors, and no loss or prejudice to any person has ever arisen in respect of any of them. They bear a very insignificant proportion to the mass of entries amongst which they are found, these entries numbering millions.

The elimination of these errors, as they are discovered in conducting the different processes of business from time to time, is the result of the elaborate care bestowed upon the correctness of the various books.

RETURN of the Number of Persons engaged, Length of Time occupied, and Cost in Money of compiling DICTIONARY INDEX from Daily or Sectional Index in Years following: 1840 to 1849, 1850 to 1859, 1860 to 1869.

THIS portion of the Return can only be estimated approximately, as the compilation of these Indexes did not form the subject of any special head of account. They were arranged, compiled, and compared from time to time, according as the current business of the office admitted of a greater or less number of clerks being employed at this particular duty. A sum of 2,500*l.* for each decennial period as above may be placed against this service. The Consolidated Surname Index at present carried on occupies about one-third of the time of four clerks, and costs about 250 *l.* per annum.

RETURN of the Average Gain of Time in making SEARCHES on DICTIONARY INDEX over DAILY INDEX.

IN all cases the gain is considerably in favour of the Dictionary Index, as stated in Messrs. Law and Chisholm's Report to the Treasury in 1865. In some cases the gain of time is as five minutes to an hour.

RETURN of the Date at which the DAILY INDEX for 1871 was put in Dictionary Order on Parchment.

THE Act 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 87, does not authorise the consolidation of the Daily (Sectional) Index in dictionary order on parchment, until the expiration of the decennial period to which that Index refers. A Consolidated Surname Index of Names on paper has, however, been prepared under the direction of the present Registrar, with the knowledge of the Treasury, in lieu of the Duplicate Sectional Index, and is in use amongst the official searchers with most satisfactory results. This Index might with advantage be written on parchment for public use, for the quinquennial period 1870-74, should the Treasury give the necessary authority to the Registrar.

RETURN of the Dates up to which the NAMES INDEX, and LANDS INDEX were compared on the 1st day of January 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877 respectively; also from the 1st day of January to the 28th day of February 1877 (inclusive).

NAMES INDEX.

On 1st January 1873.	On 1st January 1874.	On 1st January 1875.	On 1st January 1876.	On 1st January 1877.	On 28th February 1877.
30th December 1872.	30th December 1873.	31st December 1874.	31st December 1875.	30th December 1876.	27th February 1877.

LANDS INDEX.

On 1st January 1873.	On 1st January 1874.	On 1st January 1875.	On 1st January 1876.	On 1st January 1877.	On 28th February 1877.
15th November 1872.	15th October 1873.	20th August 1874.	20th July 1875.	20th August 1876.	4th December 1876.

RETURN of the Dates up to which the ABSTRACT BOOK was compared.

On 1st January 1873.	On 1st January 1874.	On 1st January 1875.	On 1st January 1876.	On 1st January 1877.	On 28th February 1877.
2nd December 1872.	4th November 1873.	10th September 1874.	20th October 1875.	17th November 1876.	14th February 1877.

M. F. Dwyer,
Registrar of Deeds, Ireland.

Registry of Deeds Office,
Dublin, 11th July 1877.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS (IRELAND)

R E T U R N S

REGISTERED IN 1898.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS (IRELAND).

(*See William Henry Smith*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed,
13 July 1898.
